

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BAGHDA 00988 200752Z

11
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-13 SAM-01 DHA-02 /085 W
----- 071990

R 200602Z JUL 76
FM USINT BAGHDAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3377
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAGHDAD 0988

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, IZ
SUBJ: REVOLUTION DAY SPEECH BY PRESIDENT BAKR

1. SUMMARY: REVOLUTION DAY SPEECH BY PRESIDENT BAKR SUMMARIZED
IRAQI CURRENT PREOCCUPATIONS BUT BROKE LITTLE NEW GROUND.
END SUMMARY.

2. PRESIDENT BAKR'S REVOLUTION DAY SPEECH ON JULY 16 USED STRONG
LANGUAGE IN ATTACKING SYRIAN REGIME FOR ITS INVOLVEMENT IN
"IMPERIALIST AND ZIONIST SCHEMES FOR COMPROMISE SETTLEMENTS"
AND FOR SYRIAN ATTEMPTS TO "UNDERMINE PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE AND
LEBANESE PATRIOTIC MOVEMENT". ACCORDING TO BAKR, SYRIA'S ACTIONS
IN LEBANON ARE A "SORDID LINK IN THE CHAIN OF AMERICA'S POLITICAL
COMPROMISE SCHEMING". HE DESCRIBED THE "COMPROMISE FORMULAS" AS
AN "AMERICAN IMPERIALIST ATTEMPT TO REARRANGE THE REGION IN SUCH
A WAY AS TO OFFER GUARANTEES TO AMERICA'S VAST MONOPOLY
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BAGHDA 00988 200752Z

INTERESTS, BACK UP THE PRESENCE OF THE ZIONIST ENTITY AND SEE TO

IT THAT THE MAINSTREAM OF REGIMES AND CONDITIONS IN THE REGION IS DIVERTED IN FAVOR OF RIGHTIST AND COUNTERREVOLUTIONARY FORCES CLOSELY ALLIED WITH AMERICAN IMPERIALISM."

3. BAKR WAS CONCILIATORY TOWARDS THE KURDS AND PROMISED TO DOUBLE AND REDOUBLE IRAQI EFFORTS TOWARDS AUTONOMOUS RULE, THE FULFILLMENT OF THE AMBITIONS OF THE KURDISH PEOPLE, AND THE PROMOTION OF COMPREHENSIVE DEVELOPMENT IN THAT PART OF THE COUNTRY.

4. IN DISCUSSING IRAQ'S INTERNATIONAL ORIENTATION, BAKR STRESSED NON-ALIGNMENT AND IRAQ'S IMPROVING RELATIONS WITH ASIAN, AFRICAN, AND A NUMBER OF EUROPEAN COUNTRIES. BAKR CRITICIZED WITH "UNEQUAL RELATIONS" BETWEEN "SOME" ARAB COUNTRIES AND "WORLD FORCES" WHICH HAVE DAMAGED THE REPUTATION AND POSITION OF THE ARAB NATION. MOREOVER, HE ADDED, THE RELATIONS OF "SOME ARAB QUARTERS" WITH THE IMPERIALIST FORCES THREATENS THE FUNDAMENTAL INTERESTS OF THE ARAB NATION. IRAQ THEREFORE BASES ITS INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS ON "CORRECT DIFFERENTIATION BETWEEN ENEMIES AND FRIENDS AND ON A RIGHT EQUILIBRIUM IN THE INTERNATIONAL FIELD". IRAQI RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION WERE BRIEFLY DESCRIBED AS BASED ON THE 1972 FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION TREATY AND AS HAVING DEVELOPED OVER THE PAST YEARS WITH THE STRENGTHENING OF TIES OF FRIENDSHIP, MUTUAL RESPECT, AND COOPERATION.

5. IN COURSE OF SPEECH, BAKR ANNOUNCED SOME FINANCIAL CONCESSIONS IN THE FORM OF INCREASED ALLOWANCES FOR FRONTIER GUARDS, ENGINEERS, AND WORKERS ENGAGED IN ARDOUS JOBS.

6. COMMENT: SPEECH SUMMARIZED IRAQ'S CURRENT PREOCCUPATIONS, BUT BROKE LITTLE NEW GROUND. IRAQI REGIME'S CONTINUING ATTACKS ON SYRIAN REGIME AS U.S. PUPPET DOES NOT PROVIDE AUSPICIOUS BACKGROUND FOR IMPROVEMENT OF USG-GOI RELATIONS. ON OTHER HAND, SOVIET UNION RECEIVED LITTLE MORE THAN RITUAL NOD AND COMMENT ABOUT "UNEQUAL RELATIONS WHICH HAVE DAMAGED ARAB NATION" WAS OBVIOUSLY AIMED AT SOVIET BLOC AS WELL AS AT WEST. DESIRE FOR IRAQI ROLE AS INDEPENDENT, NON-ALIGNED ACTOR ON INTERNATIONAL SCENE WAS PROMINENT FEATURE OF SPEECH.

7. IN FACE OF CURRENT SLOW DOWN IN DEVELOPMENT SPENDING, BAKR PRUDENTLY SOFT PEDALED USUAL LITANY OF ECONOMIC ACHIEVEMENTS. CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BAGHDA 00988 200752Z

INSTEAD, HE EMPHASIZED ENDURANCE, SELF SACRIFICE AND SENSE OF DIGNITY AND ADMITTED THAT THE CHOICE OF BEST WAY TO APPLY SOCIALISM WAS OPEN TO LEGITIMATE AND NECESSARY DEBATE.

8. BAKR'S CONCILIATORY STATEMENTS TOWARDS THE KURDS WILL NO DOUBT BE RECEIVED WITH CONSIDERABLE SKEPTICISM WITHIN KURDISH COMMUNITY UNTIL REGIME TAKES CONCRETE STEPS TO IMPLEMENT ITS LONG PROMISED PLANS FOR REGIONAL AUTONOMY AND FOR ECONOMIC

DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH.
WILEY

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INTERVENTION, SPEECHES, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BAGHDA00988
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760278-0665
From: BAGHDAD
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760742/aaaabksp.tel
Line Count: 117
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 MAY 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <02 SEP 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REVOLUTION DAY SPEECH BY PRESIDENT BAKR
TAGS: PFOR, IZ, SY, (BAKR, AHMAD HASAN AL)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006